



Pullman Public School District No. 267

*Ensuring Learning While Challenging  
Each Student to Achieve Full Potential*

Received & Inspected

SEP 09 2013

FCC Mail Room

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**Re: Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket 13-184**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Pullman Public School district resides in rural eastern Washington State. This region of the state does not benefit from the population mass seen in other areas of the state. Hence, high-speed internet tends to cost more here than in say Seattle or Spokane. The Pullman Public School district relies heavily on high-speed internet access. Every classroom has a projector connected to the Internet and almost without exception, every teacher accesses the education rich content found on the web. Internet access in-city is available but for many of our students who live just outside of Pullman in the county, there is limited access to effective high-speed internet. Part of our planned efforts to help students with this challenge is to redirect funds made available from the ERate program towards solutions such as Verizon Wireless Hot Spots or remote labs in bedroom communities. Couched in this intro are the following beliefs.

We believe:

- Universal access to broadband is necessary to meet school reform and improvement goals. These goals include the development of K-12 programming able to prepare all students for college and 21st century careers.
- The support of increased online, high risk testing is drawing fund away from instruction in favor of investments internal in access.
- The demand for access to broadband is growing rapidly beyond the ability of schools to provide it, despite the cost advantage possible through the E-rate discount.
- A modernized E-rate program must be streamlined for schools, and aligned more effectively to current and future K-12 education priorities. We outsource this burden which diminishes its value.
- There is a growing need to help schools plan and budget for technology.
- Today's demand for the cost benefit of the E-rate program exceeds available funding. Clearly, the amount of money available for schools must increase to meet state and local needs.

We agree that it is time to modernize the E-rate program and support positive change that benefits K-12 schools. We encourage you to move quickly as you complete your deliberations.

If you have any further questions about our district, please do not hesitate to contact me at [garren@psd267.org](mailto:garren@psd267.org) or by phone at 509-4332-4010.

Sincerely,

Garren Shannon, Director of Information Systems

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